

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

- The False Codling Moth (FCM) feeds on more than 100 host plants and is a pest of fruit trees, field crops and other plants. Hosts for this pest in California include citrus, cotton, grapes, peach, plum, cherry, beans, tomato, pepper, persimmon, apricot, olive, pomegranate, English walnut and corn.
- If this pest were established in California, it would cause direct economic losses and environmental damage via damaged fruit, increased pesticide use statewide by commercial and residential growers in efforts to lessen this damage, loss of revenue due to export restrictions on fruit both domestically and internationally, and feeding damage on native plants. The combined 2007 gross value in California of crops targeted by FCM was over \$14.6 billion, representing approximately 1/3 of California's 2007 total gross agricultural value of \$44 billion.
- The FCM is native to sub-Saharan Africa and has also become established on nearby islands and in Israel.
- Increased international trade and tourism in recent years has increased the risk of introduction of this pest. Since 1984, FCM has been intercepted over 1,500 times at US ports of entry. In June 2005, live FCM caterpillars were found at California's border stations inside cold-treated Clementine citrus from South Africa.
- A single male FCM was trapped in Ventura County in July 2008. Its discovery in California is a new record for the Americas.

LIFE CYCLE

- The FCM can produce up to six generations a year with a life span of 45 to more than 100 days.
- Females lay 100-250 individual eggs during their lifetime on fruit or foliage.
- Caterpillars bore into fruit, allowing for the introduction and growth of bacteria and other microorganisms.

ERADICATION PROGRAM

- An eradication program would be triggered if two moths were detected within one life cycle and within three miles of each other, or a mated female is found, or any immature stage (egg, larva, or pupa) is found.
- FCM has not triggered an eradication project in California at this time.
- Survey using traps and some fruit sampling is continuing around the Ventura County find.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

CDFA - www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps
CDFA Pest Hotline: 800-491-1899
APHIS/USDA - www.aphis.usda.gov



Figure 1. FCM Adult

Illustration courtesy of <http://www.padi.gov.au>
(Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker)



Figure 2. FCM larva inside citrus.

Illustration courtesy of <http://www.bugwood.org>
(J. H. Hofmeyr, Citrus Research International)